

## MEETING OF

### THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, September 12, 2007, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Mark Davis (representing Michael T. Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture)
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Kevin Coyle (representing John Hughes, Secretary of DNREC)
Lyn Davenport, Secretary	Ann Visalli, Deputy State Treasurer (representing Jack Markell, State Treasurer)
W. Allen Jones, Treasurer	L. Allen Messick, Jr.
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.	

Absent: G. Ray Staats.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Scott Blaier, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Cathy Mesick, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Esq., Mr. Phil Tuthill, Mr. Dan Parsons (Sussex County Historic Preservation Planner), Glenn Hitchens, Esq., and Mr. Terry Mitchell...

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. with prayer.

#### I. Progress Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 945 farms in preservation districts totaling 145,243 acres, with a total of 469 farms under agricultural easements totaling 82,907 acres at a cost of \$124,672,558. For PDR 13 there are a total of 116 farms comprising 15,925 acres with a value of \$247,272,924 to be considered for purchase of development rights. For PDR 13 there are a total of 35 farms comprising 2,350 acres with a value of \$38,814,052. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 6 farms comprising 279.3 acres.

#### II. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Rodney and Alicia Alexander Expansion of the McCullough District, ID#K-07-07-126G. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Rodney and Alicia Alexander Expansion of the McCullough District, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Pine Ridge Expansion of the Tappahanna District, ID#K-07-08-219G. After discussion, **Allen Messick moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Pine Ridge Expansion of the Tappahanna District, seconded by Ann Visalli. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. O'Bier Expansion of the Molasses Street District, ID#S-07-01-138E. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the O'Bier Expansion of the Molasses Street District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion approved.**

#### III. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

#### IV. Minutes - Chairman Garey asked if there were additions or corrections to the August 8, 2007 minutes. Receiving no additions or corrections to the minutes, **William Vanderwende moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

#### V. Financial Highlights:

Cathy Mesick informed the Foundation Board that we had, as of August 31, 2007, \$12,446.79 in the Foundation's checking account. The Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account had a balance of \$250,574.78. We received \$82.14 revenue from rollback taxes and \$330.16 interest income, as well as receiving

our grant of \$150,000 in the month of August. Expenditures for the month of August totaled \$12,710.72. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Ann Visalli. Motion unanimously approved.**

Michael McGrath informed the Board that our audit was going well. He also informed the Board about the ongoing effort to bring to light the fact that the Delaware Department of Agriculture supports the activities of the Foundation, providing interim staff and office space, etc.

VI. Executive Session – There was no need for an Executive Session.

VII. Other Business:

A. Introduction of the Sussex County Historic Preservation Planner

Michael McGrath introduced Mr. Dan Parsons, the Sussex County Historic Preservation Planner. Mr. Parsons explained to the Board exactly what he does and stated that he is interested in the historic buildings on properties in our preservation program and wishes to do oral histories concerning agricultural traditions. Michael Parkowski and Chairman Garey addressed Mr. Parsons interested in historic agriculture buildings and oral histories regarding agriculture, and offered helpful suggestions.

B. Hardship Request Mr. Terry Lee Mitchell, Mitchell-Quillen District, ID#K-96-05-088

Glenn Hitchens and Michael Parkowski presented the request by Mr. Terry Lee Mitchell. It was decided that Mr. Mitchell did not really need to pursue a hardship request, but did need to change his paperwork with the Foundation to the new form of dwelling housing allowance allowed under the 2004 legislation. This would allow three lots with a house on each lot for sale or rent to persons other than family or farm labor. Mr. Parkowski informed the Board that a motion was not necessary, but it was necessary to make the Board aware of this situation.

Mr. Bobola, Jr. wanted to know if it was possible to still build farm structures under this 2004 legislation. Mike Parkowski assured Mr. Bobola that farm structures were allowed.

VIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on October 10, 2007 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lyn Davenport  
Secretary